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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Planning Board Distribution of Draft Estimates

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1. From time to time, there has been some restiveness manifested by some members of the IAC and other individuals in the Departments of State and Defense at my practice of furnishing Planning Board members with Board drafts of estimates and intermediate revisions prior to approval by the IAC.

2. Today General Bonesteel appeared considerably exercised at our distribution of NIE-10-7-54, "Communist Courses of Action in Asia through 1957." In my opinion, this practice is justified and should be affirmatively supported by you if challenged.

3. The IAC is a subcommittee designated by the NSC, and IAC-agreed intelligence should be available to the Council whenever it considers a major policy paper on a given country or area. This support should be furnished even where it necessitates overtime or such a compression of the normal estimating process as to impair the quality that might otherwise be achieved in an estimate prepared with more leisure. On the other hand, the advanced scheduling of NSC Agenda items is not sufficiently far into the future to enable us to complete the coordinating process before the Planning Board starts its consideration of the policy paper.

4. I, as Intelligence Advisor to the Planning Board, am therefore confronted with a dilemma as between (a) speaking solely for CIA, and (b) providing the Planning Board with the best available community intelligence. In the absence of an agreed estimate, a Board draft is the next best thing, because it is largely a synthesis of contributions from all the intelligence agencies.

5. It seems clear to me that I should follow course (b) as I have been doing for the past eighteen months, being careful, as I invariably am, to point out that the paper submitted is only "Board approved" or "coordinated at the working level" and may be substantially changed before being finally adopted by the IAC.

6. To prohibit the circulation of draft estimates would impose a heavy burden on either OCI or the ONE Staff to develop substitute papers and, far more serious, would detract from the influence of the intelligence community in the making of national policy.

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Deputy Director/Intelligence

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